

Service's decision to move its Syphilis Experimental Laboratory to the school.

Field training had long been a staple of public health education. At the school, public health nurses and educators conducted field work in the spring quarter as part of their degree requirements. But soon after McGavran's arrival, the school submitted a proposal for a much more ambitious program to the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, where McGavran had worked earlier. Field training was crucial to McGavran's evolving notion of public health. He compared it to the clinical portion of medical education; to him, field training was equivalent to bedside practice. The proposal called for establishing a field training station in the Orange-Person-Chatham-Lee District, as well as improving local training sites throughout the South. This plan included short courses, in-service training, supervised field experience, apprenticeship training, and residency training. The Kellogg Foundation provided the initial funds for the program, and the State Board of Health provided additional money and personnel.¹⁷

Dr. William P. Richardson assumed the duties of head of the Department of Field Training on July 1, 1948. A graduate of Wake Forest College and the Medical College of Virginia, Richardson proved an ideal person for the job. He had rich experience as a local health officer (he had served as head of the Orange-Person-Chatham District Health Department from 1936 to 1944) and on the staff of the State Board of Health. In addition, the Public Health Service assigned a sanitary engineer and a public health nurse to the department.¹⁸

The school also became the site of the principal research laboratory of the Venereal Disease Division of the Public Health Service. In 1945 Dr. William L. Fleming resigned as director of the Reynolds Research Laboratory, and a year later the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation withdrew its funding for venereal disease research in order to increase its contributions to Wake Forest College, then in the process of moving from Wake Forest to Winston-Salem. Dr. Harold Magnuson of the Public Health Service replaced Fleming, and the university, the State Board of Health, and the Public Health Service stepped in to support the laboratory. Meanwhile, The Johns Hopkins closed its Laboratory of Experimental Therapeutics, and the Public Health Service decided to relocate some of the laboratory's staff, equipment, and functions to Chapel Hill. The university agreed to construct a building to house a newly designated